

mind that by banning ROTC units from campuses these protestors are themselves practicing a form of discrimination. This is a tactic that happens too often. Principles of equality, free speech, and freedom of expression seem to apply only to colleges and universities when they are ideologically expedient.

ROTC units are banned currently from several universities including Brown, Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. Students who attend these universities and wish to participate in ROTC programs must travel, often at their own expense, to neighboring campuses. ROTC cadets frequently are the subjects of ridicule on their own campuses. Despite the recent setbacks at UCSB, headway is being made in the struggle to ensure the rights of students are protected.

Columbia University in New York City banned ROTC in 1969 in an effort to appease liberals. The end of the Vietnam War brought an end to the protesting, however the ban remains in place. That ban is now coming under intense fire thanks to efforts by Advocates for Columbia ROTC, an on-campus student group. Sponsored by the powerful Students United for America, another student organization, the Advocates for Columbia ROTC is making a significant push to bring back ROTC. In a student referendum two years ago, 65% wanted their rights to participate in ROTC restored. In the fall of 2004, students authored a proposal to reinstitute ROTC at Columbia and presented it to the university's senate. The senate then created an "ROTC Task Force" made up of faculty and students to discuss the proposal. On February 15 the task force held a "town hall" meeting to gather information for a report to be presented to the university's trustees who will make the final decision concerning ROTC's fate at Columbia. After six months of deliberation, the task force split 5-5 on whether or not to restore ROTC to Columbia immediately.

Columbia's student-led movement may restore student rights to participate in ROTC. Articles, editorials, and letters voicing support for ROTC's return fill the student newspaper. A Columbia professor who opposed students' rights to participate in ROTC in 1969 is now calling for Columbia to cooperate with military recruiting efforts.

The potential reform at Columbia is a threat to leftists at other Ivy League schools that bar students from participating in ROTC and meeting with military recruiters on campus.

Students at Yale took notice and started their own "Bring Back ROTC" campaign. Yale students hope to garner two thousand signatures on a petition that would encourage increased discussions between the administration and those who want to see ROTC return.

Some student groups are going on the offensive to ensure their rights to participate in ROTC are protected. For example, students at Cornell are circulating a petition applauding the administration's support for ROTC, saying that a ban "would be an embarrassment to Cornell and a detriment to our armed forces." In the midst of a heated debate about military recruiters, students at Princeton formed a coalition to voice support for the ROTC program and its cadets.

These developments are encouraging. The students at Columbia and Yale are discovering that they have voices, and if they organize themselves and show strong support, the administration might finally listen.

But what is happening at UCSB is a step backward and demonstrates what may be a growing undercurrent of anti-militarism by faculties. How can we continue to subvert the efforts of those who literally live and die to preserve our freedoms, liberties, and our

very way of life? The men and women who participate in ROTC programs are critical leaders in that war. One ROTC commander described ROTC units as "islands of conservative values in a sea of liberal secondary education. We are training tomorrow's leaders today." Such values and training should be accessible to students no matter what school they choose to attend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on the following suspension bills on July 11, 2005, due to family obligations: H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333.

I respectfully request that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 168 and "aye" on agreeing to H. Res. 333.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 363 and 364. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 168, condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 363 and 364.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the State of Kuwait for recently granting women important political rights, among them the right of suffrage. Under this new law, passed by the Kuwaiti Parliament on May 17, 2005, Kuwaiti women not only have the right to vote in municipal elections scheduled for later this year and future elections, but they also are now permitted to run for public office.

A few years ago, I had the honor of traveling to Qatar to meet with men and women there. During that journey, it became crystal clear to me that women's suffrage is a uni-

versal human right; one that must be fought for by those of us fortunate enough to possess it. The women of Qatar won the right of suffrage in 1999, and since then have become more involved in their government as their voice is heard for the first time.

Additionally, just last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with a delegation of Kuwaiti women involved in various aspects of Kuwaiti life. I met with Mrs. Lulwa Al-Mullah, Secretary General of Women Social and Cultural Society; Ms. Amal Al-Khaled, Marketing and Public Affairs Director of Kuwait News Agency; Dr. Nada Suliman Al-Mutawa, professor at Arab Open University; Dr. Nibal K. Bourisly, Assistant Professor of Mass Communications at Kuwait University; and Mrs. Aroob Youseff Al-Refa'e, Director of Cultural and Scientific Resources at the National Council for Culture, Art, and Literature. These progressive female leaders work in the areas of university education; human rights, business, public affairs, and communications. They have been active in their society for some time, and now with the right to vote, their contributions will know no bounds.

I join my colleagues in saluting the granting of suffrage to the women of Kuwait. It is imperative that we Members of Congress, as representatives of the most free nation in the world, work to advocate the protection of this right of Kuwaiti women, and I stand by my colleagues in this endeavor.

STATEMENT DEFENDING THE HONOR OF OUR TROOPS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the protection we have enjoyed here at home since we took the fight to the enemy has been purchased with the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. The very least we can do in return is to show them honor and respect when they come home.

According to the Greensboro Herald-Journal, middle school teacher Michael Lund of Anita White Carson Middle School in Greensboro, Georgia had that intention when he invited his old college roommate, Marine Sergeant Zach Richardson to speak to his middle school students about his experiences in Iraq.

The children in Mr. Lund's class had been pen pals with Sergeant Richardson and several of his fellow Marines in Iraq, so everyone was excited about finally getting to meet in person.

Imagine the surprise when he and Mr. Lund were intercepted outside the classroom by School Principal Ulrica Corbett. She demanded Mr. Lund escort Sgt. Richardson off school grounds immediately. Principal Corbett later told the media that Mr. Lund did not have approval for a guest speaker to come on campus.

Mr. Lund produced documentation to prove that he had indeed filed the necessary paperwork well in advance, and that Principal Corbett refused to act on it.

Regardless of the reason, this treatment of one of our heroes returning from Iraq is unacceptable and inexcusable.

Under no circumstances should Sergeant Richardson have been denied the opportunity